CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of communicating with a virtual circuit network comprising: on a host computer communicatively linked with a virtual circuit network and communicatively linked with a device over a local area network, receiving a virtual circuit message from the virtual circuit network; referencing a data structure associating a virtual circuit of the virtual circuit network with the device; and based on the association, passing the virtual circuit message to the device over the local area network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure is a table containing an entry associating the virtual circuit with the device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure is a table containing an entry associating the virtual circuit with the network address of the device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a personal computer.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual circuit network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising: receiving a virtual circuit setup message from the device; determining the network address of the device;

generating a call reference value; and making an entry in the data structure associating the virtual circuit with the network address of the device.

7. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising: an association between a virtual circuit of a virtual circuit network, the association being usable by a proxy host communicatively linked with the network and communicatively linked with a device over a local area network, the association being usable by the proxy host to pass virtual circuit messages received from the virtual circuit network to the device.

8. A computer system comprising a proxy host computer, the proxy host computer comprising a memory having stored therein programs comprising: a networking program for unwrapping a device message received from a virtual circuit network to extract a virtual circuit message; a call deflector program for determining an association between a device on a local area network and a virtual circuit of the virtual circuit network; and a packet switching program for passing the extracted virtual circuit message to the device over the local area network based on the determined association.

9. The computer system of claim 8, the stored programs further comprising a bus driver for unwrapping a bus-specific message to extract the device message, wherein the bus-specific message is received from an interface device connected to the virtual circuit network.

10. The computer system of claim 8, wherein the virtual circuit network is an asynchronous transfer mode network and wherein the virtual circuit message is an asynchronous transfer mode cell.

11. The computer system of claim 8, wherein the networking program is network device interface specification layer having an asynchronous transfer mode miniport.

12. The computer system of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of devices communicatively linked to the proxy host over a local area network, wherein each of the plurality of devices comprises a memory having stored therein programs comprising: a networking program for unwrapping a virtual circuit message received from the proxy host to extract data and pass the data to an application program, wherein the application program provides the data to a user at the device.

13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising: on a host computer communicatively linked with a virtual circuit network and communicatively linked with a device over a local area network, receiving a virtual circuit message from the virtual circuit network; referencing a data structure associating a virtual circuit of the virtual circuit network with the device; and based on the association, passing the virtual circuit message to the device over the local area network.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the data structure is a table containing an entry associating the virtual circuit with the device.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the data structure is a table containing an entry associating the virtual circuit with the network address of the device.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the device is a personal computer.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the virtual circuit network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, having stored thereon further computer executable instructions for performing the steps comprising: receiving a virtual circuit setup message from the device; determining the network address of the device; generating a call reference value; and making an entry in the data structure the virtual circuit with the network address of the device.

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